

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/713,591

Applicant(s)

DEMERS ET AL.

Examiner

Virginia Manoharan

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 31 October 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-15,37,38,41 and 42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

VIRGINIA MANOHARAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ART UNIT 12/1797

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 7, "titled "Locally Powered Water Distillation System" with inventors Dean Kamen has been deleted and replaced with ----60/518,782----.


Line 8, "and Kinston Owens" and "(serial no. not yet assigned)" have been deleted respectively.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 16-36 have been cancelled (non-elected invention).

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 37-38 and 41-42 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Virginia Manoharan at telephone number 571-272-1450.


VIRGINIA MANOHARAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 183/797

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The problem addressed by the instant device is to provide a vapor compression distillation system and associated components that increases efficiency and production capability, while decreasing the necessary power budget for system operation and the amount of system maintenance required. (See page 2, lines 4-12).

This problem is solved according to the invention by providing a liquid purification system that advantageously may be compact, inexpensive, and easily maintained, i.e., providing a distillation device including a liquid ring pump encased in a fully rotatable housing within the head vapor space of a still; wherein the fully rotatable housing having a single continuous shaft about which the liquid ring pump, motor and rotor rotates; and wherein the motor rotor and magnets are hermetically sealed within the fluid pressure boundary of the distillation system. [See page 2, lines 14-22].

The combination of Mugele with Kraner does not teach all the claim limitations of claim 1, interalia "...a sump wherein liquid from the evaporator may be preheated at start-up, wherein the evaporator has a plurality of parallel evaporator tubes, each tube having a first open end in communication with the sump and a second open end in communication with the head chamber and wherein each of the plurality of parallel tubes is sealed at the first end and second end by an elastomer tube seal"; nor teach the evaporator having a plurality of parallel core layers with rib sections that create channels for directing steam and condensed liquid flow, and wherein alternating parallel core layers comprise an evaporator channel and a condenser channel such that evaporation and condensation are separated as further claimed in claim 41.

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Keller, another relevant prior art, discloses hydraulic pumps and hydraulic motors. “As those skilled in the art understand, hydraulic pumps and hydraulic motors do not involve the phase changes required in distillation from liquid to vapor and then back to liquid”.

Thus, the subject matter of claims 1-3, 6-15, 37-38 and 41-42 is neither disclosed by the prior art nor is obvious. The claims are deemed allowable over the prior of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virginia Manoharan whose telephone number is 571-272-1450.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola, can be reached on 571-272-1444.


The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business
Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


SONIA MANCHARAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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